

Serial No. 09/237,229

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a second cassette stage placed opposite to the first cassette stage and mounting
thereon a cassette having processed wafers stacked thereon.

Remarks

Claims 1-32 are pending in the present application.

The claims have been amended to emphasize that the transfer path is maintained at atmospheric pressure and to improve form. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application as considered along with the Preliminary Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 16, 2000 in connection with this application and to cite the corresponding document of record in the present application.

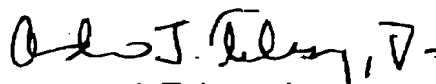
In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES VOLENTINE, L.L.C.



Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
Registration No. 33,581

AJT:tmd

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